

11/11/03 - Superfund
***Redevelopment of the Chisman Creek Superfund Site
York County, Virginia***

A fruitful partnership between EPA, Virginia Power, and the local community resulted in the transformation of a Superfund site into a much-needed recreational facility for York County, VA, approximately 15 miles north of Norfolk. Where a local contractor once dumped fly ash, softball teams now field fly balls and soccer teams score goals; these local teams are the beneficiaries of one of the first Superfund site reuse projects in the United States.



From 1957 until 1974, the Yorktown Power station burned coal and petroleum coke, generating over 500,000 tons of fly ash, which was hauled away by a local contractor and placed in three waste pits on his property along Chisman Creek. Nearby residents noticed a green tint in their well water in 1980; high levels of vanadium were found in groundwater, surface water, and soil. In 1983, Chisman Creek was placed on the National Priorities List and Virginia Power agreed to implement cleanup.



Local residents wanted the site cleaned up, but they also wanted recreational access to the Chisman Creek flood plain. A public-private partnership was formed between York County and Virginia Power to develop the site for recreational purposes, and a 12-member local Stewardship Committee was formed to oversee the site's cleanup and redevelopment. Chisman Creek Park's two softball fields were dedicated in 1991 and Wolf Trap Park's four soccer fields

opened in 1992. Chisman Creek Park has been a success from the instant the first softball was lobbed across home plate. A model of public-private partnership, Chisman Creek shows how goodwill and imagination can turn a wasteland into a productive facility and a source of civic pride.

Positive Economic and Fiscal Impacts

- Over \$240,000 in increased property value on the site between 1986 and 2003
- Approximately \$31,000,000 in increased property values within a half mile of the site from 1986 to 2003
- Nearly \$270,000 in increased property tax revenue for York County in 2003

Environmental and Social Benefits

- Improved aesthetic value of the local landscape
- Preserved open space
- Provided recreational opportunities for the community
- Virginia Power improved its community image by not only cleaning up the fly ash dumps, but also providing the community with sports fields
- Protected human health and the environment by treating contaminated soil and groundwater and connecting residents to public water supplies